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ABSTRACT

The United States Department of Education, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Library of Congress, the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, and the National Institute for Literacy have formed the AMERICA 2000 Library Partnership to support libraries in their work toward the six National Education Goals announced by President Bush and the 50 governors after the 1989 education summit. The Library Partnership will include the following components: (1) supporting parents in getting their children ready for school and helping them reach high standards in the core subjects; (2) promoting the best of literacy theory and practice by distributing information on successful programs and funding literacy projects; (3) sponsoring a special project to promote the building of home libraries; (4) adapting and improving library services to meet the changing educational and social needs of the 21st century through short-term training institutes for school and public librarians and improving the dissemination of information to libraries; (5) improving and expanding data collection on public library services for children and young people; (6) commissioning papers by practitioners and researchers in the library field; (7) co-sponsoring a national conference, "Libraries and the National Goals," in 1993; (8) spotlighting innovative libraries and library programs; and (9) assisting librarians in working within their communities. More information about the AMERICA 2000 Library Partnership can be obtained by calling 1-800-USA-LEARN. (ALF)

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AMERICA 2000 Library Partnership

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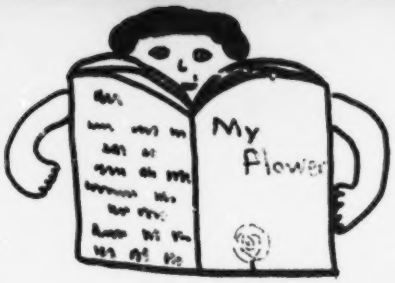

Libraries—public libraries, school libraries, libraries in homes—are fundamental to the American educational experience. Public libraries are open to all people of all ages and all interests. School library media centers play an important role in classroom instruction. And home libraries hold cherished books as well as resource and study materials for millions of people. For all of us, libraries make it possible to be—as President Bush has challenged us—"a nation of students."

In 1989, President Bush and the 50 Governors held an historic education summit in Charlottesville, Virginia, culminating in the bipartisan announcement of six National Education Goals. The Goals state that, in the year 2000:

- All American children will start school ready to learn;
- At least 90 percent of our students will graduate from high school;
- Our students will demonstrate competence in the core subjects;
- American students will be first in the world in science and mathematics achievement;
- Every adult will be literate and have the skills necessary to compete in a world economy; and
- Every school will be safe and drug-free.

Our public, school, and home libraries must be central partners in meeting the Goals.

The America 2000 Library Partnership

The United States Department of Education, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Library of Congress, the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, and the National Institute for Literacy have formed the AMERICA 2000 Library Partnership to support libraries in their work toward the Goals.

The Partnership is reaching out to our nation's school and public libraries to encourage and enhance librarians' efforts to achieve the Goals. The Partnership will also support greater collaboration between public and school libraries, as well as innovative uses of library resources to benefit all learners.

The Library Partnership will include the following components.

Today's Libraries and the Goals

Libraries can be one of a community's strongest partners in meeting the Goals. School library media centers in each school reach out to all learners in rural, suburban, and urban communities. Public libraries, in addition to supporting schools' educational objectives, offer a variety of services for lifelong learners. Mobile public libraries serve people who could not otherwise visit their local libraries. Children and adults with special needs have access to signed storyhours, books on tape, and even local satellite broadcasts to schools and homes.

Libraries support parents in getting their children ready for school and in helping their children reach high standards in the core subjects. Many public libraries offer preschool activities, summer reading programs, and after-school homework clinics. And school libraries provide access to the basic resources needed by teachers to teach and students to learn.

The Department of Education will work with public librarians to make several publications available to parents:

- *Helping Your Child Get Ready for School*;
- *Helping Your Child Become a Reader*; and
- *Helping Your Child Use the Library*.

The Partnership will initiate a special effort in areas with large Spanish-speaking populations to offer *Cómo ayudar a sus hijos a usar la biblioteca* (the Department of Education's translation of *Helping Your Child Use the Library*).

The Center for the Book in the Library of Congress and Head Start, in collaboration with the Association for Library Service to Children, are developing a multi-media resource package to demonstrate how Head Start agencies and librarians can work together in literacy programs at the local level.

The National Institute for Literacy and the Department of Education will work together to promote the best of literacy theory and practice by widely distributing information about successful programs and continuing to fund literacy projects designed to reach populations not usually served in traditional settings, particularly those involving both libraries and public schools.

Having books in the home encourages a lifelong desire to read. Many libraries prepare and distribute lists of recommended books that might be included in personal libraries. The AMERICA 2000 Library Partnership will sponsor a special project to promote the building of home libraries.

Libraries for the 21st Century

The Library Partnership supports the ongoing efforts of libraries to adapt and improve their services to meet the changing educational and social needs of the 21st century.

The Department of Education will award $1 million in fiscal year 1993 to support short-term training institutes for school and public librarians on ways they can help their communities achieve the National Education Goals.

The Library Partnership will help improve the dissemination of information to librarians. In the fall of 1992, the Department of Education sponsored a seminar to gather librarians'

Libraries really are one of the greatest gifts the American people have ever given themselves.

Barbara Bush

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ideas about SMARTLINE, a proposed user-friendly electronic information service providing public access to an array of useful educational information.

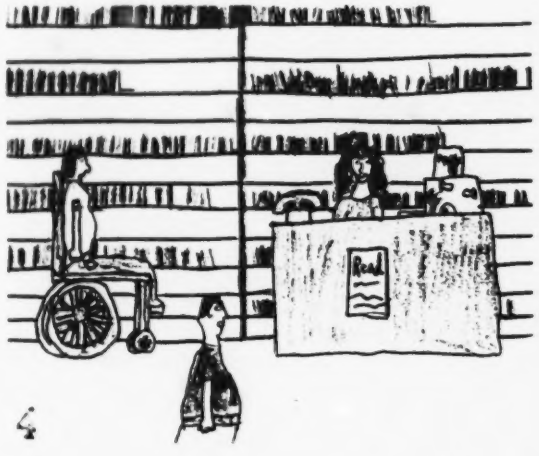
The Department of Education is improving and expanding data collection on public library services for children and young people in order to provide librarians and policymakers better data for planning services for youth. The Department will also give special attention to collecting school media center data.

The Department of Education is commissioning papers by practitioners and researchers in the library field on how libraries can support each of the Goals. Each paper will also stress how school and public libraries working *together* can achieve the Goals.

A national conference, "Libraries and the National Goals" is planned for 1993, to be jointly sponsored by the AMERICA 2000 Library Partners and involving major national library associations and organizations, especially those promoting youth services.

Involving America 2000 Communities

AMERICA 2000 is a community-based strategy to transform American education for learners of every age. The Department of Education will work with AMERICA 2000 Communities to promote the role of libraries in reaching the Goals.



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The AMERICA 2000 *Newsletter*, distributed nationwide, will spotlight innovative libraries and library programs.

An AMERICA 2000 Library Partnership office will link the national AMERICA 2000 effort and the library community and will assist librarians in working within their communities to meet the Goals.

For more information about the AMERICA 2000 Library Partnership, call the U.S. Department of Education: 202–208–0969. To find out whether an AMERICA 2000 community has already formed in your area or to receive information about how you can get your community started, call: 1–800–USA–LEARN.

Libraries change lives. . . . On behalf of the nation's public librarians and school library media specialists, I accept this challenge. . .to work together to educate our children for the 21st century.

Marilyn Miller, President American Library Association

Libraries are at the center of the revolution beginning in American schools.

Lamar Alexander, Secretary of Education

U.S. Department of Education

Lamar Alexander, Secretary

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Art

The following artwork was done by students of Mantua and Beech Tree Elementary Schools, Fairfax, Virginia. The students are patrons of George Mason Regional Library where the Library Partnership was announced to the nation.

cover, Lisanne Matheson, illustrating an Inuit (Alaskan Native) story of how the world was created by ravens.

panel 1 (bottom), Jeff Bergman
panel 3, Min Young Yoon
panel 4, Lori Wagoner
panel 5, Addie Pierce Macmanomon

Barry Weinstein, art teacher

Other artwork

panel 1 (top), Emily Dorfman
panel 2, Travis Greene

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